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RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4152
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C O N F I D E N T I A L LILONGWE 000330

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STATE FOR AF/S

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/30/2017

TAGS: MARR MASS MOPS PREL PTER

SUBJECT: MALAWI: NEW WAY FORWARD ON IRAQ

REF: SECSTATE 55436

Classified By: Ambassador Alan Eastham for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

(C) 1. At present, Malawi has neither the will nor the capacity to contribute military or civilian resources to the Coalition in Iraq. Malawi's leaders have been extremely reluctant to place their soldiers in harm's way on peacekeeping missions, and the Malawi Defense Force is both poorly funded and militarily untested. While Malawi has been hesitant to engage in peacekeeping missions on the African continent, they are currently considering joining the AU missions in Sudan and/or Somalia, which might involve a small rifle battalion with some light armored support. However, significant Malawian deployment outside the continent is not currently feasible.

EASTHAM